



Course Title: Climate, Migration and Health Interactions: Mechanisms of Mitigation, Adaptation, and Loss and Damage.

Registration link: <https://scapplication.sun.ac.za/?offeringid=8baa96f3-72b2-ef11-ac10-005056801c40>

Dates: January 20-24, 2025

Venue: (hybrid) Annex Lecture Theatre, Natural Science Building, Stellenbosch University

Capacity: 30-40 participants

Scientific committee: Christian Lueme Lokotola (SU Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Climighealth Hub), Charlotte Scheerens (Gent University, ClimigHealth Hub), Guy Midgley (SU School for Climate Studies).

The summer school is a comprehensive program designed to explore the interconnectedness of climate change, human migration, and health outcomes. It delves into the multifaceted impacts of global climate change, particularly focusing on how these influence public health and even drive human migration patterns. Participants will engage with a range of topics, including strategies for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, adapting to its inevitable consequences, and managing the loss and damage causes. The curriculum is structured to provide a deep understanding of these complex interrelations and to equip students with practical skills and strategies to address these global challenges. Through a blend of theoretical knowledge and case studies, the summer school aims to foster a holistic understanding, enabling participants to contribute effectively to policy-making, humanitarian efforts, and sustainable development initiatives in the face of these pressing global issues. Students will examine how climate-hazards—such as heatwaves, storms, flooding—impact human health, with a focus on vulnerable populations. The course also addresses the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of healthcare facilities.

The course will be hosted at the School of Climate Studies of Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with Ghent University, as part of the CliMigHealth programme, (<https://www.climighealth.org/>). The School of Climate Studies hosts CliMigHealth's Africa hub, which is a regional platform of our network to facilitate research and education in the African region.

Summer school program (subject to minor changes that will be communicated):

Day 1 - January 20, 2025

09:00-09:30: Registration

09:30-10:00: Welcome and introduction to the programme by the Scientific Committee

10:00-12:30: First lecture by **Dr Charlotte Scheerens** (UGent) - This lecture will provide an in-depth exploration of the complex and interwoven relationships between climate change, migration, and public health. We will examine how climate change exacerbates migration patterns, as environmental degradation, extreme weather events, and loss of livelihoods drive people to move, often under vulnerable conditions. The lecture will also explore the health consequences for both migrants and the communities they leave or move to, focusing on the physical, mental, and social health challenges that arise from displacement, loss of stability, and lack of access to essential services. Special attention will be given to populations at heightened risk, including those living in areas prone to climate-induced disasters, as well as socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Through case studies and current research, we will analyze the policy implications of this nexus and discuss strategies for mitigating its negative impacts on human well-being.

12:30-13:30: Lunch break and networking

13:30-16:30: Second lecture by **Prof Guy Midgley** (SU) bringing the climate perspective on the nexus

Day 2: January 21, 2025

09:00-12:00: Third lecture by **Prof Ilse Ruysen** (UGent) bringing the migration perspective - This lecture explores one of the most profound and visible consequences of climate change: its impact on human mobility, often described as the "human face of climate change." Climate migration is not a century-old phenomenon, and also today, both sudden climate shocks and gradual environmental changes can drive people to migrate. In this session, we will examine the complex relationship between climate change and migration. To what extent will climate change trigger large-scale migration in the future? Is this already happening in certain parts of the world? We will also explore why not everyone migrates when faced with climate-related challenges. Some choose to stay, others wish to leave but

lack the means, while many who do migrate opt for nearby destinations. This lecture will delve into the various factors that shape migration decisions in the context of climate change and empirical findings on the matter.

12:00-13:30: Lunch break and networking

13:30-16:30: Fourth lecture by **Prof Bob Mash, Dr Christian Lokotola** and **Dr Trish Swerdle** (SU) Health services perspective; Dr Lueme will explore the impact of climate change on the burden of disease. Through African cases studies he will explore how climate change can impact community morbidity and mortality patterns; Prof Mash will explore how climate change can impact healthcare services and facilities. He will share a 5-step approach to assessing the vulnerabilities and capabilities of health facilities and developing an action plan to improve resilience. This approach has already been piloted in a hospital in Chad and primary care facilities in South Africa. Dr Swerdle will explore how the healthcare services and facilities are contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. She will describe a practical approach to assessing the carbon footprint of a health facility and improving the environmental sustainability.

Day 3: January 22, 2025

09:00-12:00: First guided workshop in which students can collaborate and interact with each other and with the lecturers from the past lectures to develop a proposal

12:00-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-15:00: Keynote lecture by African expert + mini-paragraph with biosketch

15:00-15:30: Short break

15:30-16:30: Feedback session of keynote lecture, intentionality for final course product.

Day 4: January 23, 2025

09:00-12:30: Fifth lecture by **Dr Hourriyah Tegali** focusing on climate-induced infectious diseases in migrant populations

12:30-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-16:30: A testimony on field experiences with a professional working in migrant settlements by **Dr Robyn Pharaoh**.

Day 5: January 24, 2025

09:00-12:30: Second guided workshop in which students prepare their task

12:30-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-15:30: Wrap-up and closing remarks by the organizing committee

16:00-20:00: Social event

Information for out-of-town participants.

Stellenbosch is the second-oldest town in South Africa, and the heart of the food and wine industry. Accommodation options abound, but as January is the peak summer season, costs can be high. We suggest that you try looking for guest houses on [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com), or even find a local home on [AirBnB.com](https://www.airbnb.com). Alternatively, if you have transport, consider staying in a neighbouring town like Somerset West (although morning traffic can be very busy).